Feminine Mffnirs.

BOCIAL LIFE IN VILLAGES which many bright, cultivated, and social-disposed people, in a majority of country villages—and many small cittoo, for that matter-ask them-"What shall we do this win-

The resources for intellectual entertainment or asthetic enjoyment, or even for pleasant recreation, in such Native alities, are much more limited than those without experience of them are apt to know. The lecture system once served an excellent purpose, as far as it went; but that is dead or dying. And in the average American village, of the sort not given over to "hops" and minstrel shows, little remains to break up the dull uniformity of our five months of unpleasant weather, or relieve the tedious tread-mill existence of ties whose chief mental activities are divided about equally between the rival churches, the much-managed school, and abiquitons gossip. There are two or three huge "parties," where a hundred or two guests are huddled into standing room for forty or fifty; mere clearance gatherings, to which in-vitations are simply social legal tender for outstanding "indebtedness," and where the "enjoyment" consists in being jammed by people you don't care about meeting, eating unwholesome food at unseasonable hours, and tell the stereotyped white lie about having had a "very pleasant evening" to the "relieved" mistress, two hours after you had wished yourself in bed and she and her "party" in Joppa—or some other distant part. Of all the absurd, sperating, and misdirected attempts at social enjoyment, the American small swell party is the worst. Three of these in a sesson are enough to make

a hermit of one torsver thereafter.

There are feasible and pleasant ways in which to spend the winter evenings rationally and profitably, in these places, some of which we propose to er in this department. True ch a high ideal. Congeniality, of lasting social enjoyment. Sticks laid cross wise the flint and the steelthese are good in fire-building, but out tweive people out of a thousand are all that can meet together under the best conditions for intimate companionship. How to get congenial groups together, ms. A series of set parties, though selected on right principles, will not do it; for these bring formali. ties—the white frost upon true enjoy-ment—and trouble, expense, rivalries, dress, and a general "fuss and trouble,"

satisfaction of the originator, and to the

lasting pleasure of all concerned : Early in the season—say in Novem-ber—the owner of a cosy little home sent a note to familles embracing thirty or forty of his triends-no more than his double rooms would seat comfortastating that he should be "at DR. C. MCLANE'S

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pleased. They were requested to come
in without ringing, and soon learned to
dispose of their wrappings and themselves without troubling any one. The
rooms were brightly lighted, well
warmed, and as much ventilated as our
brainless system of house-ballding
would admit of. There were tables for
those who wished to play cards, or
other games; an open plano and music
for the musically isclined; books, ragazines and papers strewn about; easy
chairs around the fire for story-tellers
or vigitors. No "retreshmente" were
served, but in a corner stood a table
with apples and popped corn, or walnuts and raisins, candy—or on especial,
by cold nights an uru of coffes and a
plate of doughouts—to which all were
invited to help themselves or others as
they wanted. Husbands, wives, or
young people, came alone or together
as was convenient; stayed according to
their pleasure; did as they wished, and
went, as they came, without more cers
mony that a cheery "good night."

The meetings were called "Informals," and whether the number in attendance were ten or forty made no differcece, for there was no expense or special trouble of preparation. It was prohome" Friday evenings during the winter, from 7 to 11, and should be glad to

ence, for there was no expense or spe-cial trouble of preparation. It was pro-enough to try it. In fact, he distrusts posed to have them rotate; but the objection was held valid, that by so doing there would always be with some an have occurred where few of them existed, uncertainty as to the place of meeting; rivalries in entertainment would creep in: dressing up would come to be thought essential; and so the characteristic charm of the gatherings be dispelled. They therefore continued as they began, and were efficient in killing off, for those concerned, at least, the old stand-up parties, on one side, and preventing social stagnation on the other.

Does not the plan contain a hint began the stand-up parties, and as the stand-up parties, and the stand-up parties are stand-up parties, and the stand-up parties are stand-up parties. The stand-up parties are stand-up parties are stand-up parties are stand-up parties. The stand-up parties are stand-up p

worth considering, as the season apdent lamp come again into play?

Little boys wear stockings and neck-ties which match in color. Cloth cos-lid, with the impression Dr. McLane's tumes are much trimmed with emboss- LIVER PILLS,

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